

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising the peptide:
Y-W-S-A₁-C-S-A₂-C-G-Z (SEQ ID NO: 9)
wherein Y and Z consist of: ~~comprise:~~
(a) amino acid chains consisting of 0-6 amino acids; or
(b) chains of compounds which are not amino acids,
wherein A₁ and A₂ are amino acid sequences consisting of ~~comprising~~ 1 to 5
amino acids (~~SEQ ID NOS: 97-168~~) and further wherein the peptide is not selected from the
group consisting of one of the following sequences:
-W-S-P-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:2),
-W-S-S-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:3), and
-W-S-Q-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:4).
2. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein
said A₁ is Pro or -X₁-W-X₂-X₃- (SEQ ID NO:5), ~~X₁, X₂, and X₃ being chosen, independently
of each other, from G, S and C, denoted SEQ ID NOS:50-59.~~
3. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 2, wherein
said A₁ is -X₁-W-S-X₃- (SEQ ID NO:6), ~~denoted SEQ ID NOS:6 and SEQ ID NOS:60-64.~~
4. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein
said A₂ is selected from the group consisting of -R-S-, -V-S-, and -V-T-, ~~denoted SEQ ID
NOS:65-88.~~
5. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 3, wherein
said peptide is the following amino acid sequence: -W-S-X₁-W-S-X₃-C-S-A₂-C-G- (SEQ ID
NO:7), ~~denoted SEQ ID NOS:7 and SEQ ID NOS:89-96, wherein, X₁ and X₃ are
independently selected from G, S and C.~~

6. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim 4, wherein said peptide is ~~the following amino acid sequence~~:

-W-S-G-W-S-S-C-S-R-S-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:8).

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

9 – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) An additive for culturing nerve cells, comprising a peptide according to claim 1.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A peptide consisting of ~~having~~ the following amino acid sequence:

-W-S-G-W-S-S-C-S-R-S-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:8).

17. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a peptide according to claim 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

18. (Canceled)

19 – 21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) An additive for culturing nerve cells, comprising a peptide according to claim 16.

23. (Canceled)

24. (New) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 97-168.

25. (New) A composition according to claim 2, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 50-59.

26. (New) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 60-64.

27. (New) A composition according to claim 4, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 65-88.

28. (New) A composition according to claim 5, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 89-96.